

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT  
APRIL 2001**

**OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR**

**Commission Office**

At the April 12, 2001 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission, the following items were discussed:

- A request to reallocate Senator Amoss funds for the Laytonsville VFD was approved.
- A request to donate a used ambulance to the Maryland-National Capital Park Police was approved.
- The Commission reviewed FY01 Senator Amoss fund allocations recommended by the Fire Administrator.
- The Commission reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter FY01 budget analysis and request for additional funds for the LFRDs.
- A request to add one primary unit to EMS incidents on limited access highways was approved.
- Tax funding was authorized for the engine/tanker purchased by the Laytonsville VFD.
- The *Fire Scene Preservation and Fatal Fires* policy was approved.
- The *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* Executive Regulation was referred back to the Human Resources, Safety, and Training Committee.

**Research and Planning**

**Emergency Management**

EMG May 9<sup>th</sup> – The Emergency Management Group was briefed on pre-planning needs and vulnerabilities from West Nile Virus at quarterly meeting. Chief Jarboe and Bill Kelly from Public Health reviewed major changes to Terrorism Annex. EMG made recommendations for 2002 Work Program and Exercises, and reviewed Emergency Operations Plan Annex changes.

Terrorism Planning – Staff prepared revisions to Terrorism Annex and participated on EMG Terrorism Work Group under Chief Jarboe. Staff attended Council of Governments Bioterrorism Work Group planning sessions.

2002 Exercise Plan – EMG approved 2002 exercise plan to include tests of school coordination, Police coordination for civil unrest, and meet state and federal requirements for haz-mat and hurricane exercises. EMG will focus on lessons learned from previous exercises during quarterly training sessions.

School Exercise – Planning meetings were held with public school safety and security officials, Police, Fire Rescue, City of Gaithersburg, City of Rockville, Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, and Office of Emergency Management to discuss joint exercise, school violence exercise to be held August 1<sup>st</sup>.

MOU – Cities of Rockville, Gaithersburg and Takoma Park working with OEM staff to update Memorandums of Understanding for disaster response. MOUs, now in city attorney offices, are expected to County for signature before July.

Hurricane planning – OEM staff Henning, Krumlauf, Talbott, Nemchin, and District Chief Patullo, DPW&T Jerry Herman, intern Michael Crockett, and RACES Deputy Officer Howard Gorden attended the Severe Storm Awareness Conference April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Hurricane Public Outreach – County Executive issued a Hurricane Awareness Week Proclamation for May 21-25<sup>th</sup> to join national efforts. Press release on family preparedness and disaster supply kits for home and car drafted and issued. Hurricane predictions from national expert Dr. Gray indicate 10 estimated storms, 2 of which are predicted to be intense Category 3 or above storms. Families are encouraged to stock up supplies and practice evacuation strategies.

Hurricane Exercise – The County and its EMG volunteers will participate in the annual hurricane exercise on the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup> and the morning of June 6<sup>th</sup>. Communication tests of radios, base stations, mobile units, and messages with other jurisdictions will be highlighted.

Flood preparedness – With federal funding grant from Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, OEM staff designed and sent out for comment Flooding and Flash Flooding brochure.

e-Montgomery- Design meetings are now being held every 10-14 days to rework programming for e-Montgomery access for hazardous materials permit applications and payments. OEM and DIST are targeting July 1<sup>st</sup> implementation date, in time for High and General Use renewals for 2001-2002.

Pools – April 25<sup>th</sup> Pool Hazardous Materials Workshop held for pool managers and pool owners. The joint meeting held with Public Health was well attended. Pool permits are due June 1<sup>st</sup>, and renewal notices and chemical inventories were mailed to businesses. Staff offered attendees hands-on assistance in preparing applications immediately following workshop.

Animals in Disaster – K. Henning working with Humane Society of US and MD Dept of Agriculture to update outreach programs for emergency managers on handling of animals, rescue, care, and disposal issues during emergencies.

Skywarn – OEM is hosting the National Weather Service training for weather spotters known as Skywarn on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Class is offered on Saturday to encourage volunteer participation.

CAO Briefing – Annual Briefing of the Chief Administrative Officer on Emergency Management has been confirmed for August 8<sup>th</sup>. City of Rockville will host meeting in their auditorium.

Utilities and Transportation – Meeting scheduled with all utility and transportation representatives for June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss disaster and emergency coordination issues. Improvements to GIS maps for distribution areas and damage assessment following storms will be among topics.

## **Community Education Safety Section**

### **Corporate Development Services:**

#### **Automation Section**

### **Fleet and Facilities Section**

#### Fleet Activities

- Continued contract management efforts for the acquisition of replacement brush trucks and EMS units.
- Continued procurement activities related to the acquisition for three (3) pumpers and one (1) aerial tower.
- Continued participation in the PS 2000 project relating to mobile voice and data equipment.
- Worked with the Division of Fleet Management Services to order fleet vehicles for FY 01.
- Developed specifications, in cooperation with respective mechanics, for the refurbishment of two (2) pumpers and one (1) aerial ladder truck.

#### Facilities Activities

- Attended progress meetings for the Sandy Spring Fire Station 4 construction project. Substantial completion is now due August 2001.
- Represented the fire/rescue service at the Montgomery County Planning Board re: Collapse Rescue Team building. This project is in the permitting process phase and construction will begin in May 2001.
- Performed project tasks for the Takoma Park Fire Station 2 replacement project, including station design activities and temporary site activities. The schematic floor plans are nearing completion. Related processes are in place.
- With representatives of Facilities and Services and the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, completed the selection of an architect for FS #1.

### **Property Section**

- Processed 188 property transactions during the month of April 2001.

## **DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

- Attended a learning session for officers at the PSTA.
- Participated in the preparation for the Take Your Daughters To Work festivities.
- Attended a training session at the PSTA – under A/C Clemens.
- Participated in budget meetings.
- Met with Metro officials to discuss matters relevant to Montgomery County emergency services.
- Met with the MD Metro Chiefs in Berwyn Heights.
- Attended the quarterly meeting with the MCPD Chief and other officials.
- Participated in a meeting regarding the Annual Police and Fire Awards luncheon – with the Mont. Co. Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended the Council meeting regarding budget review.
- Attended the meeting regarding the Environmental Management System.
- Met with the Fire Administrator, etc., regarding apparatus specifications.
- Met three candidates and their families regarding the college fire science program.
- Attended volunteer “hell night” at the PSTA.
- Attended the Takoma Park VFD banquet.
- Served as Acting Fire Administrator for five days.
- Participated in the Take Your Daughters to Workday.
- Attended the Valor Awards luncheon at the Indian Springs Country Club.
- Took a week of leave (vacation).
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee, FRC, Fire-Rescue Association, Operations Committee and the MCFRS Chiefs’ Committee meetings.
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.

## **DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

### **BUREAU OF OPERATIONS**

## **Administration**

Our main effort has been to support the County Executive's budget before the County Council. We are hopeful that we will be provided with new staffing for EMS enhancements in Hillandale and Gaithersburg, and additional staffing for nights and weekends at Hyattstown.

## **Safety**

As you know each District Chief has been reporting on recent injuries to a Safety Review panel that Fire Administrator Aoyagi has established. The purpose of the review is to identify trends, unsafe conditions, and unsafe acts. We are trying to work in a proactive manner to make corrections and improvements where possible. Here are the results of the latest reporting period.

Shift	A	B	C	Total
District				
1	7	6	0	13
2	1	4	2	7
3	5	12	4	21
4	3	1	0	4
5	3	2	5	10
Total	19	25	11	

Congratulations to the "C" shift and to District 4 who have the least number of injuries for their respective groups. What are they doing that you aren't? Let's all try to improve on these numbers!

## **Specialty Teams**

### **Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:**

The team responded to and provided services at a trench rescue in Frederick. We are happy to report that this effort resulting in the saving of a life as the team was able to successfully extricate a worker who had been buried up to their chest in dirt for several hours. Our personnel worked with members of Frederick Co. Fire & Rescue throughout this event.

### **Swiftwater Rescue Team**

The team continues its spring training effort. Team leadership is monitoring the construction efforts for the new Virginia water intake to ensure that we are ready to respond to any emergency that occurs during construction.

### **Hazardous Materials Response Team**

The hazardous materials response team is developing new Standard Operating Procedures for team use. These SOG's can also be used as training aides for

other firefighters to become familiar with the actions necessary for a successful hazardous materials mitigation.

### **River Rescue Team**

### **Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:**

### **Swiftwater Rescue Team**

### **Hazardous Materials Response Team**

### **River Rescue Team**

## **BUREAU OF PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Administration**

### **Wellness**

### **Recruitment/CPAT**

### **Communications**

Master Firefighter Corte has successfully completed his administrative and 911 call taken training. MF/F has been placed on Shift #1 to complete his training in dispatch.

District Chief Patullo attended the Hurricane Summit, held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Chief Patullo also attended the Congressional Fire/Rescue Caucus.

Continuous Dispatch Education for April: Poisoning

### **ECC Facts for April**

911 Calls Answered: 9468

911 Overflow Answered: 677

Administrative (in/out): 20,204

### **Training**

Recruit Class #19 continues with 37 recruits currently taking EMT-B (Emergency Medical Technician-Basic) which will end the first week of June.

April statistics for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing for career personnel are:

8 Written Exams

17 Practical Exams

The new In-Service Training Program "Rapid Intervention Company Training" began on April 30<sup>th</sup>. One session was held with 15 students.

One career EMT-Paramedic was awarded charge status in April.

EMT-Paramedic Class #21, the nighttime class began on September 11<sup>th</sup>, continues with 17 students (5 career and 12 volunteer).

EMT-Paramedic Class #22, the daytime class began on January 8<sup>th</sup>, continues with 11 students (10 career and one volunteer).

### Community Training Center

The Montgomery County Fire Rescue Community Training Center (MCFRCTC) participated in CPR Across America on Saturday, April 28, 2001. The MCFRCTC sent 6 instructors (5 LFRD, 1 MCFRS) and 5 Instructor Trainers (1 LFRD, 4 MCFRS) to assist at the Washington DC Convention Center. Two MCFRS Instructor Trainers participated on the planning committee.

The MCFRCTC provided Heartsaver AED training for the Montgomery County Revenue Authority on April 17, 2001. The training was held at the Hampshire Greens Golf Course, 18 employees of the Revenue Authority completed the course and were certified in the use of CPR and the AED. An additional course will be held in May to complete all employees. Site surveys were made to decide the optimal placement of AED's at the five Revenue Authority Golf Courses.

The MCFRCTC provided CPR renewal for Emergency Management staff at the PSTA on April 24, 2001.

## **BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES**

### **Fire Code Enforcement**

### **Fire and Explosive Investigation**

In April, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 11 accidental fires and 11 criminal incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 14 explosive incidents, of these incidents seven were for suspicious packages. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$2,353,050 and \$66,050 for criminal incidents.

The office of the State's Attorney has assigned five attorneys to the Fire and Explosive Investigation Section. This will enhance the section's criminal investigations and trials.